

National Congress Bulletin



JANUARY 1959 • PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS • CHICAGO 11 • VOL. 26, NO. 5

Dear P.T.A. President:

THE FIRST MONTH of a new year—what a time for beginnings and rededications! Although I know you must have thought about this more than once, I recall it to you because I too feel strongly that this is the time to reexamine the responsibilities before me. We both are realizing now that a year is a very short time in which to achieve all we want for our children and youth. But we must encourage ourselves with the thought that each small effort has its part and place in the completeness of the onward parent-teacher movement in our country—a movement of persons who are concerned with the younger generation but who do not take over in the process. For that reason let us continue persistently and patiently to do all that we can.

Sometimes the work of the parent-teacher association gives impetus to the development of a specific program or project by creating the necessary favorable public opinion. Perhaps a timely example will help to make this clearer: Some of you believe, I know, that an activity such as skating is genuinely useful in the development of the physical and emotional health of boys and girls; that it also gives a personal skill which is a joy to possess and which may be used creatively

for many years throughout life's span. Hence, because there are no skating facilities, your P.T.A. attempts to provide them by helping to secure public funds for the rinks and possibly for trained leadership, so that big and little may together enjoy the new recreation area.

» This is only one illustration of the many ways that innumerable P.T.A.'s have been instrumental in persuading local officials to assume responsibilities for public facilities and leadership. In many cases such programs would not otherwise have been launched; public opinion had to be prepared to accept a change from the past and to support the opening of a new opportunity to help children and youth—present and future—develop in health, in skill, in self-respect. Both the specific example I have cited and the attitudes—the seen and the unseen—are in keeping with P.T.A. objectives. The example was an easy one, for right now I hear the shouts of youngsters outside as they play on an artificial pond that is paid for from the public purse.

» P.T.A.'s, however, often face far more complicated tasks. We hear much about the need to strengthen the school curriculum. This is an involved process but it is one we believe in despite its difficulties. Last November I mentioned to you a new P.T.A. publication, "Looking In on Your School." By now this should be in your hands, and we hope you will consider its use in these early days of 1959—whether you, with your school administrators and teachers, are realizing the need to strengthen the curriculum, or whether you believe that your school does have an ably planned educational program but that the general public is not quite aware of it. In either case "Looking In on Your School" should help you to analyze the situation and, knowing the truth, help others to be as well informed. Such thoughtful collaboration with the teaching profession can help to supply answers to the questions of fault-finders as well as fact-finders, to whom our publication is addressed.

» As we speak of fact-finding resources, one of the best comes to mind—the "National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine." I do hope it is used by your P.T.A. and that every P.T.A. family is a subscriber.

» I am wishing for you the most useful and happiest of years.

Sincerely yours,

Helen C. Parker

MRS. JAMES C. PARKER, President
National Congress of Parents and Teachers



• At a luncheon given for Inter-American Seminar participants, Mrs. Parker (left) has an opportunity to chat with Professor Heloisa Marinho of the Institute of Education, Rio de Janeiro, and Walter W. Eshelman, vice-president and president-elect of the National Education Association. For the interesting story of Mrs. Parker's South American Seminar tour, see the March 1959 issue of the "National Parent-Teacher."

OUR HISTORY IN PERSPECTIVE

Out of Mrs. Mears' Scrapbook Come Pictures of the Past—To Help Us Enrich Today's Founders Day Programs and Extend Tomorrow's P.T.A. Work

FFOUNDERS DAY, the birthday anniversary of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, was dear to the heart of Mrs. David O. Mears, its originator.

Mrs. Mears' name is almost as well known and loved in the National Congress as those of the two Founders, Alice McLellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst. She was a charter member of the Congress, an ardent member of the National Board, and a devoted friend of Mrs. Birney. She served as national chairman of the Committee on Founders Day from the time of its origin in 1910 until her death in 1935. Her untiring efforts and unflinching inspiration were, in a great measure, responsible for the growth of the Founders Day tradition.

Mrs. Mears graciously permitted the use of her valuable collection of early Congress records for the small volume *Through the Years*, which is now out of print. The book makes no effort to give a chronological story. (A detailed history is found in *Where Children Come First*.) Rather, it is composed of scattered word pictures that emphasize the ideals we still stress today and give intimate details of settings, backgrounds, and persons.

First knowledge of the new National Congress of Mothers project came to Mrs. Mears from Dr. Mears, her husband, who handed her a letter saying, "This will interest you. It is a call for a Congress of Mothers to be held in Washington next February. I am sure you will wish to attend. The letter came to me in common with other clergymen of the country, asking that we preach upon the coming Congress and all it signifies."

The first Congress publication was an attractive folder sent to all leading women's clubs in the "hope of interesting at least fifty women sufficiently to make them want to come to Washington" in support of the movement. "The originator of the present project, believing in the necessity for organized and earnest effort on the part of mothers of the land concerning questions most vital to the welfare of their children and the manifold interests of the home, [thinks the idea] needs only to be disseminated, to be quickly accepted and acted upon by hosts of conscientious, thinking women throughout the world."

Indications of heart-warming welcome are gathered from an 1897 issue of *Kindergarten*

Magazine: "Responses from the women's clubs and societies in various parts of the country prove that hundreds have been waiting for some such movement, and are looking eagerly for the reflex benefits from this National Congress."

The article continues: "The sum necessary to establish and maintain an office in Washington to supply and distribute printed matter, to carry on correspondence, and to defray expenses. . . . has been furnished by one who is a well-known friend to every woman's cause, Mrs. George Hearst."

About that same time Mrs. Birney wrote to her sister, "I wish you knew Mrs. Hearst or could see her. . . . It is she who has indeed been the inspiration and stay of this movement. I am confident she is doing more good in the world today than any other one individual. She sustains, I think, eighteen free kindergartens, besides contributing largely to the support of many educational and charitable institutions. She does so many other gracious and beautiful things that I cannot begin to enumerate them. I rejoice that she stands before the world as godmother for this plan."

On February 13 two Washington newspapers describe the souvenir programs: "They are printed in leaflet form, on heavy cream satin paper. Up in one corner is the portrait of a healthy little child, and under it the words 'And a little child shall lead them.' " "At the top and bottom of each of the twenty pages in the book is a quotation about childhood, each in itself a gem. . . . It took 32 balls of sewing silk to fasten the pages together."

Mrs. Birney's address of welcome has been printed many times. Among its specially memorable sentences: "The love of childhood is a common tie, which should unite us in holiest purpose. It has been truly said, 'To cure was the voice of the past; to prevent, the divine whisper of today.' May the whisper grow into a mighty shout throughout the land. Let mothers, fathers, nurses, educators, ministers, legislators, and the press make the child the watchword and ward of the day and hour."

News reporters had little difficulty those days in filling their columns:

Evening Star, February 13, 1897: "During the reading of a paper not a blessed mother of 'em, nor father, nor son, nor daughter will be permitted to enter. They say nothing so mars a finely prepared paper as the rustle of silken petticoats, the settling of wide skirts, and the nods and handshakes of a woman as she sinks in her seat. 'Of course, the matter of removing hats is really left to the judgment of the wearer,' said Dr. Clara Bliss Finley, 'but we will request that all who can will remove the nodding

plumes and flower gardens while they are in the Congress.' . . .

"From far away San Francisco comes a delegate in the person of a young man who has just graduated from the State University. He is sent as the representative of the Mothers' Club, and is deeply interested in the problems that this Congress is going to begin solving. . . .

"The ladies are anticipating a pleasant hour with Mrs. Cleveland, who will receive them Wednesday afternoon. . . . It is well known that Mrs. Cleveland takes the keenest interest in all that pertains to children and better motherhood."

Washington Post, February 19: "Dr. Whitman of Columbia University, who was present, said of the Congress, 'A promise of hope and help and joy for the home everywhere. Anyone who understands the personnel and purpose of this convention will feel fresh courage for the future.'"

"There was a noticeable increase in the number of men present at the sessions yesterday. The lady ushers gave them all cordial welcome and endeavored to find seats for them."

The Congregationalist, February 20: "These women are in dead earnest that something very practical shall result."

Table Talk: "A happy mother herself, Mrs. Birney is credited with saying, 'To do the best for my children, I must do for all children—for your children, since mine will in time enter into business and social relations with yours.'"

Kindergarten Magazine speaks of Mrs. Birney's plans and ideals: "We suggest that mothers' clubs be formed everywhere, and that these occasionally call parents' meetings. A club can be organized by any woman who may desire to enter upon this work. It is the consciousness of the supreme importance of the child, and all that has to do with him, which the Congress is voicing and calling upon the nation for response."

Brief pictures from items of the next few years catch the spirit of the movement that was kindling ever more interest.

Washington Post, May 3, 1898: "Mothers of the country at the second National Congress of Mothers are discussing the best methods for bringing up young men and women of the country that they may better serve their native land. . . . [Quoting Mrs. Birney] 'Let us who believe in a Mothers Congress teach our children that if there is an unpardonable sin it is the misuse of power, intellectual, political, or social; that the highest development of a faculty is obtained only through use, and life means service for mankind and the world!'"

Washington Star, May 5, on the White House reception: "The ladies passed in files two and two to the door of the Blue Room, where a gentleman in waiting asked the name and announced it to another gentleman, who in turn presented you to the president. Mr. McKinley took each hand and, carefully pronouncing your name, said, 'How do you do?' or 'I'm glad to see you,' and then passed you on to Mrs. McKinley. It was as if the President of the United States was really glad to see you."

Washington Evening Star, February 18, 1899, on the third National Congress of Mothers: "The Duty of Parents to Education" was the subject of the paper by Mrs. Joseph F. Mumford of the Philadelphia Board of Education [who said, in part] 'If American education lags behind it is to be traced to the indifference of parents. . . if you would witness an audience openly stirred, open up before a chance lot of parents on some chance educational topic.' "

Washington Post, March 1, 1902, on the Sixth Congress, when it was known that Mrs. Birney had declined to continue as president: "The nominating committee has passed a sleepless night in the effort to make choice for president. . . . The new president, Mrs. Frederic Schoff, was instrumental in getting the first Juvenile Court established in Pennsylvania."

Washington Post, March 11, 1908, on the annual convention that took the form of the First International Congress on the Welfare of the Child: "Fully 3,000 people packed the church. They sat on the steps of the flower-decked altar and perched on window ledges. The 3,000 who couldn't get in went home. . . . When President Roosevelt began to speak it was remarked that he seemed more perfectly at ease than usual, and it was the opinion that the 'motherouse' lay nearer to his heart than any other."

In closing the President said, "The welfare of the nation depends absolutely upon whether or not the average man and woman and their children represent the kind of citizenship fit for the foundation of a great nation."

American Motherhood quotes Mrs. Birney's paper: "'Home shapes the character and decides destiny. What the boy is in the home the man will doubtless be in the world.' "

Mrs. Birney had passed away on December 20, 1907, and the same magazine tells of the "most beautiful service held at the Metropolitan M.E. Church," which "attested the devoted love of the officers and members of the Congress."

The memorial tribute, given by Mrs. Birney at the service, included these words: "Mrs. Birney came the vision of true motherhood, of childhood and its needs. She had indeed a prophetic vision of what organized, intelligent motherhood might accomplish the world over. . . . Mrs. Birney's memory will be best honored and glorified in the perpetuation of her ideals and accomplishment of her cherished plans."

Work of P.T.A. Goes Far Beyond Holding Meetings, Reading Minutes

● **THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE** is part of one that appeared in the February 2, 1958, issue of *Grit*, a weekly newspaper with a circulation of almost a million, published in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Founders Day features like this give the public a better understanding of the value of the parent-teacher movement as an influence in home, school, and community.

● **HAVE YOU** supplied your local newspaper with information on local, state, and national parent-teacher goals and achievements?



● A P.T.A.-sponsored teen-age club. One of three pictures used in the article to illustrate the scope of P.T.A. activities.

WHEN A MOTHER joins her area P.T.A. she automatically becomes a member of a nation-wide group called the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

The P.T.A. began in 1897 as the National Congress of Mothers. This was prior to enactment of the child labor law. At that time there was real need for such an organization because children worked 10 and 12 hours, three out of four left school between the ages of 14 and 16 to go to work, and cotton mill machinery was built to children's sizes.

Membership Totals 11,000,000

The organization took its present name in 1925 and now lists some 11,000,000 members. Through the years it has exerted powerful influence on legislation and reform affecting children and schools.

The P.T.A. serves as a link between school and homes.

It buys playground equipment, band instruments, and uniforms. It even stumps for legislation when school children or teachers are concerned, although it does not actively endorse or support any political candidate or party.

Much of this requires money. To raise it, the women have baked-bean suppers, put on plays, have festivals and socials. But this

is merely a means to an end. The P.T.A. is really a powerful force in a community.

Many examples of the effectiveness of the P.T.A. may be told. In Mt. Lebanon, Pa., new schools were outgrown less than five years after the town had voted a bond issue of 1½ million dollars to finance their construction.

A second bond issue of 2½ million dollars was sought, but its approval seemed dubious. School authorities turned to the P.T.A.'s for help. Members of the parent-teacher organization placed brochures in 11,500 homes in two days. They put posters in store windows. They wrote statements for the local newspapers. They sent out fliers the day before the election. They got out the vote, and the bond issue was approved overwhelmingly.

Handicapped children are another concern of the P.T.A. The Waller Elementary School P.T.A. in Bossier City, La., in one year checked the vision and hearing of more than a thousand children and discovered 120 youngsters in need of correction.

If your school has no P.T.A., you can help start one. Write the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, 700 North Rush Street, Chicago 11, Ill., for literature.

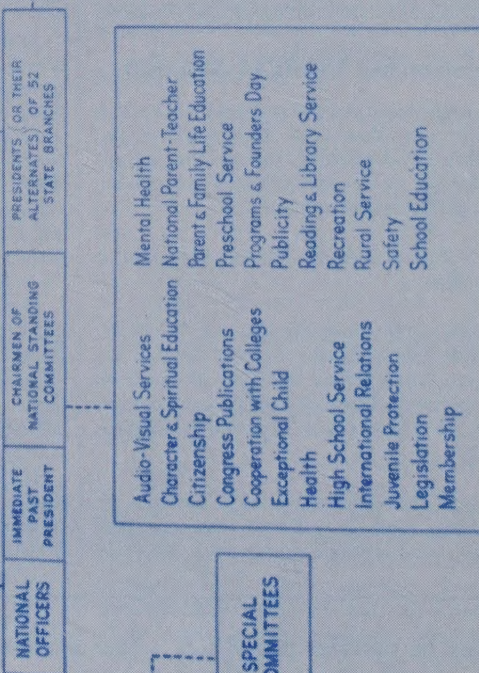
Please be sure that your P.T.A.'s Founders Day Birthday Gift is sent promptly to your state congress, either to the state treasurer or to the state office, as your congress directs.

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

VOTING DELEGATES
National Board Members
Three State Board Members
One Delegate for Each 1000 Members or Major Fraction Thereof

NATIONAL BOARD OF MANAGERS



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NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT
EIGHT VICE-PRESIDENTS FROM REGIONS
SECRETARY
TREASURER

UNORGANIZED AREAS

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Delaware
D.C.
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Kentucky
Louisiana
Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts
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New Hampshire
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North Dakota
Ohio
Oklahoma
Oregon
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
South Carolina
South Dakota
Tennessee
Texas
Utah
Vermont
Virginia
Washington
West Virginia
Wisconsin
Wyoming

European Congress of American Parents and Teachers

11,018,156 MEMBERSHIPS IN 44,000 PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS

● Here is a picture of the all-inclusive structure of your national organization, the largest voluntary group in the world. This is the structure that has evolved through the years since the founding of the National Congress in 1897, as more and more persons everywhere have come to recognize their common goal—to unite the forces of home, school, and community in behalf of all children and youth.

With their efforts unified, parents and teachers know that children's welfare and education stand better chances of getting the priority they deserve in the community, the state, and the nation. For that reason the structure of the organization is built firmly on the fundamental principle that all who join P.T.A.'s automatically become members of the state congress and the National Congress. Thus they benefit from the experience, influence, and resources of their larger organizations, and they multiply their power to

act for children. This is the reason for the all-inclusive structure of the parent-teacher organization.

The sole business of the organization is the welfare of children. And this is a big undertaking, as shown by the many areas in which parents, teachers, and others work together and by the structure necessary to keep their work flowing uninterruptedly from year to year in all parts of America. Today's membership is a powerful witness to the success and significance of the undertaking. With its five mighty Objects as a guide to the vision needed for challenges ahead, the parent-teacher organization will continue as an ever growing action group—a group that unites all segments of the population in one effective program of preparing today's children for meeting tomorrow's problems in the home, the community, and the nation.

A MESSAGE TO ALL PARENT-TEACHER GROUPS

from . . . Mrs. Newton P. Leonard

A Director of The Endowment Fund
National Congress of Parents and
Teachers

● EACH YEAR P.T.A.'s look for opportunities to honor outstanding leaders in their respective communities—individuals who have been especially generous in their gifts of energy, love, and ability in promoting the welfare of children. Some of these people are teachers and school administrators. Others may lead in fields of health or in the interest they show in the many other areas concerned with children. All of them deserve recognition for their efforts and a meaningful token of our appreciation.

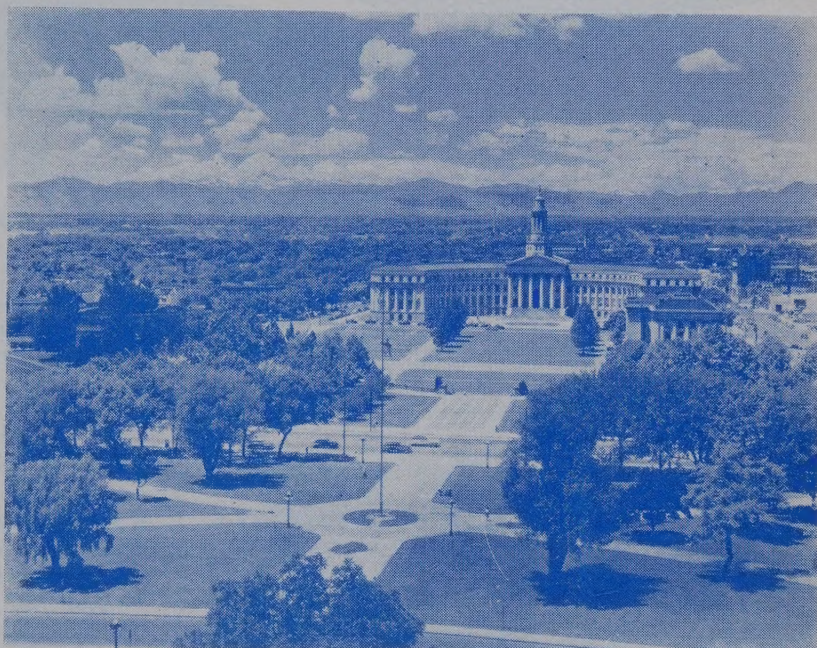
No better way for recognizing such service can be found than bestowing the highest award given by the parent-teacher organization—an Honorary Life Membership in the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. Parent-teacher groups are now realizing this fact, for in 1958 they conferred more Life Memberships than had ever been given in any one year since the beginning of the Endowment Fund and this type of membership. Recipients of this high honor have told us how proud they are to be members of the growing group of National Life Members.

Yes, there is a distinct relationship between the Endowment Fund and National Life Memberships. The Endowment Fund, which was originated in 1899, provides a background of material protection for our great parent-teacher movement. And it is the income from all National Life Membership fees that is used to build this protective Fund. Thus the honor given an individual lives on year after year while it is ensuring the continuity and progress of our great movement.

We sincerely hope that you—each P.T.A., each council, each district, and each state branch—will consider the value of conferring such an honor on at least one deserving person within your community before the close of this year's program. Procedure for granting Honorary National Life Memberships is very simple: First, there is your decision that you will confer the honor; and second, you send the National Life Membership fee (\$50.00) to the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, 700 North Rush Street, Chicago 11, Illinois. From that office you will immediately receive the certificate of membership and the membership card. (Please be sure that the names of the recipient and the donor are given accurately and plainly in the application.) For further details on the plan, see page 251 of the 1958-59 *Parent-Teacher Manual*.

May we hear from you? We will be happy to reply to any questions you may have.

FOR A REFRESHING LIFT . . . Come to the National Congress Convention Denver, May 17-20



© Denver Convention and Visitors Bureau

- A view of Denver's Civic Center, taken from the steps of the State Capitol. Sheltered by trees at the left is the visitors' Hospitality Center.

DENVER, host to the sixty-third annual convention of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, is situated near the line where the great plains and the Rocky Mountains meet. A mile above sea level but sheltered by the snow-capped Rockies, the city offers convention-goers unsurpassed climate and beautiful scenery.

- As stimulating as Denver's mountain air is the program being planned for the convention. It will develop the National Congress' Action Program theme, "Strengthening the Home, Source of Our Nation's Greatness," by emphasizing "The Family and the Growing Personality."

- Among the eminent men and women who will participate in programs are: Max Lerner, author, lecturer, editor, and radio commentator; Dr. Frances Ilg, director, Gesell Institute of Child Development; Marguerite Higgins, journalist and author, recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for reporting in 1951; Dr. Robert J. Havighurst, professor of education, University of Chicago; Dr. Douglas Bond, professor of psychiatry, Western Reserve University; Dr. Thurman White, dean of extension, University of

Oklahoma; and Dr. Martin Essex, superintendent of schools, Akron, Ohio.

- National Board members also will contribute information and inspiration by taking part in a panel discussion on "How the P.T.A. Reinforces the Family" and in a symposium on "An Appraisal of the Parent-Teacher Partnership."

- Watch for more convention details in future issues of the *Bulletin*.

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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P.T.A.

BULLETIN

BRIEF ITEMS OF CURRENT INTEREST

BOARD

- **HOW YOUNGSTERS CAN MAKE THE MOST** of their high school years in preparing for college was the subject of a program for ninth-grade children and their parents put on by the career committee of the Governor Mifflin Junior High School P.T.A., Shillington, Pennsylvania. A panel of seven college freshmen, all 1957 graduates of the Governor Mifflin school system, discussed the topic and answered questions from the ninth graders.



- Among those who participated in the program of the Governor Mifflin Junior High School P.T.A. were (seated, from left) Keith H. Lebo, school counselor, and Mrs. Harry Oxenreider and Mrs. John E. Ruth, co-chairmen; (standing) Mrs. Luther T. Miller, unit president; Phillip Hunter, Barbara Wink, and Louise Niebaum, college students on the panel, and Ira P. Hoffman, school principal.

- **A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER** is used by the Glendover P.T.A. (Lexington, Kentucky) for opening communication lines between all parents, to make sure they are informed on school activities, enrollment figures, the calendar of events, and other matters of mutual interest. Reaction to the newsletter has been enthusiastic, especially among families that cannot attend all P.T.A. meetings.
- **ILLINOIS CONGRESS MEMBERSHIP FIGURES** for 1957-58 show that 48 units in the state increased their membership by 100 per cent or more, and 12 by 200 per cent or more. Fifteen units could boast of having had 100 per cent membership for three consecutive years (*100 per cent membership* means to the Illinois Congress that every teacher is enrolled and every home represented in the P.T.A.).
- **A DEMONSTRATION OF THE RESUSCITATOR** owned by the city was given at a meeting of the Lamont, Iowa, P.T.A. The machine is available to anyone at any time.

- **SUMMER RECREATION ACTIVITIES** for children were set up by the Lafayette and E. C. Hughes P.T.A.'s in Seattle, Washington, under the supervision of P.T.A. members, who volunteered three hours of service weekly for a month. The projects included roller skating parties, "read-to-me" and craft groups, and a paper dolls club. P.T.A. volunteers also supervised the wading pool area, assisted in activities at a neighborhood playground, and provided transportation for outings and "overnights" sponsored by other organizations.
- **A SHORTAGE OF WOMEN MEMBERS** is reported by the Honomu Elementary School P.T.A. in Hawaii. Last year's records showed 104 men and only 20 women! Ten other P.T.A.'s in Hawaii reported predominant father membership.
- **"HOMEWORK" FOR MEMBERS** of the Wells P.T.A. (Euclid, Ohio) before their 1958 Founders Day meeting consisted of reading the list of P.T.A. achievements published in the unit's newssheet. With this information fresh in mind, members were better equipped for guessing the charades that were presented during the program.
- **A TEACHER FOR FORTY-ONE YEARS** at the Catskill (New York) Junior High School, Mabel V. Root, was honored at the 1958 P.T.A. Founders Day celebration. Miss Root, who retired in 1938, was greeted by many of her former students and was given an honorary state life membership and pin by the unit.
- **A PANEL DISCUSSION ON SAFETY** held at a meeting of the Drummond (Montana) P.T.A. drew a record turnout. Several aspects of safety were discussed: "Safety on the Highway," "Safety in Homes," "General Health and Safety Measures from a Health Standpoint," "Fire Prevention," and "Law and Order." A question period followed the talks.
- **THE YOUTH CENTER** of Villisca, Iowa, known as "Teen Haven," operates under joint management of the high school P.T.A. and members of the student body. The committee in charge is made up of three sets of parents and three representatives from each high school grade.
- **A FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP FUND** has been established by the Edison P.T.A. in Elmhurst, Illinois. The fund, called "an investment in the future of our children" by the unit, will be used to pay tuition fees of a teacher for a maximum of 12 hours of advanced work within one year.



• Mrs. Clifford N. Jenkins, first vice-president of the National Congress, congratulates Basil O'Connor, president of The National Foundation, on the Foundation's multimillion dollar scholarship program in physical therapy, occupational therapy, nursing, medical social work, and medicine. This program, providing for 505 scholarships a year in five of the major health professions where the need is greatest, is one reason why the March of Dimes has set its fund-raising goal for 1959 at \$65,000,000.

- **LAST SUMMER'S WATER SAFETY PROGRAM**, sponsored by the Mae M. Walters Elementary P.T.A. (Hialeah, Florida), was primarily for children who, as first-graders in the fall, would have to cross the Red Road Canal to get to school. Classes at the pool also were open to any child in the community who had not yet learned to swim. Parents did the teaching, with the help of students from a nearby high school. By the end of summer 62 children were able to qualify as swimmers.
- **THE INVITATION TO PLAY AT THE BRUSSELS WORLD FAIR**, which was extended by the U.S. State Department to the Burlingame (California) High School string orchestra, set off a flurry of activity in the town. With only fifty days in which to raise the \$40,000 needed for the trip, the P.T.A. appointed its music chairman, Mrs. Dwight A. Garner, to take charge of the unit's fund-raising efforts. Cooperating to reach the goal were citizens' groups, businessmen, churches, students—in fact, everybody in the community. Said the P.T.A. president, Mrs. Edward J. Foley: "No single incident has ever brought our small community together with such cohesiveness."
- **AN "INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS" THEME** added color to the annual fall fund-raising festival sponsored by the Pleasant Ridge P.T.A. (Cincinnati, Ohio). Each booth was gay in a décor characteristic of another country, and a young man from the Netherlands, who was studying in this country, was honored as special guest. Other attractions at the fair were dinner in the school auditorium and a variety show.
- **PRESIDENTS OF LOCAL UNITS** in Harford County, Maryland, were invited to meet with Superintendent of Schools Charles W. Willis to study and discuss school problems. As a result of the interest created by the conferences, the largest crowd ever to attend a public meeting in Harford County turned out later to demand higher taxes for restoring the school budget. Now the presidents' group has become a permanent citizens' advisory council to the superintendent and the board of education.

• **MEN ARE TAKING** more and more active roles in the P.T.A., says W. R. Fulton, newly elected president of the Oklahoma Congress. He points out that 39 per cent of all P.T.A. members in Oklahoma are men and that 193 of the approximately 700 units in the state have men presidents. Dr. Fulton, associate professor of education at the University of Oklahoma, is the third man to be president since the Oklahoma Congress was organized in 1923.

• **AS PART OF ITS OBSERVANCE** of Founders Day, the South High School P.T.A. (Cleveland, Ohio) presents a book to the school library in the name of a past president.

• **HIGH LIGHTS OF THE 126-YEAR HISTORY** of the Cane Run School (Louisville, Kentucky) were pictured by the school's P.T.A. during its Founders Day program last year. Teachers modeled costumes of the various eras since the days when the school was set up in a one-room log cabin. Other properties and the settings also reflected the nineteenth-century atmosphere. Many members worked together in the research and planning that made this an event long to be remembered.

• **THE DIGEST OF THE 1958 ANNUAL CONVENTION** of the National Congress is used as resource material in a course on "Education in the Contemporary Social Scene" at the College of Education, University of Wyoming. The teacher, Everett D. Lantz, who is second vice-president of the Wyoming Congress, reports that the students, most of them potential teachers, find the *Digest* articles interesting and enlightening.

• **THE SCHOOL LIBRARY** sponsored by the North Thirty-first Street School P.T.A. in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, became a reality after the unit had worked for years to raise sufficient funds. Books were selected by a committee of three P.T.A. members and three teachers, and the library is now open four times a week, with teams of P.T.A. mothers serving as librarians. Parents visiting the library on P.T.A. meeting nights have exhibited so much interest that books for adults may be added soon.



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• P.T.A. members serving as librarians check out books for young readers at the North Thirty-first Street School in Milwaukee.

BROTHERHOOD WEEK February 15-22

Theme:

Rearing Children of Good Will

FOR MANY YEARS the National Congress has cooperated in the Brotherhood Week endeavor to bring about better understanding among people. Commenting on this year's observation, Mrs. Harold J. Gildea, national chairman of the Committee on Character and Spiritual Education, recently said, "The theme fits in beautifully with our own National Congress theme: 'Strengthening the Home, Source of Our Nation's Greatness.' How better can we strengthen the home than by developing proper attitudes among the children there?"

To put the accent on youth, the sponsoring organization, the National Conference of Christians and Jews (43 West 57th Street, New York 19, New York), gives some planning hints for community organizations:

1. **Develop your program in the light of expressed interests and local problems.**
2. **Plan with youth.**
3. **Whenever possible, involve members and adult leaders of youth organizations in your human relations programs.**
4. **Integrate human relations programs into the total program plan.**
5. **Involve parents wherever it is possible.**

For materials (free or inexpensive) and planning assistance, the National Conference suggests that you contact its nearest office.

Join the 1959 MARCH OF DIMES

New expanded program supports medical scientific research, professional education, and patient care

- Polio
- Virus Diseases
- Arthritis
- Birth Defects

NATIONAL CONGRESS CONDUCTS *Regional Safety Conference*



• "Working Together for Safety—with Other P.T.A. Organizations" is the topic discussed by five national chairmen at the safety conference. Panelists are (from left) Howard L. Bowen, Rural Service; Mrs. Ralph W. Frost, Juvenile Protection; Calvin H. Reed, Parent and Family Life Education; Mrs. H. Cecil Baker, Programs and Founders Day; and Helen M. Wallace, M.D., Health.

• The two National Congress leaders who jointly preside at the conference meetings are (from left) Mrs. P. D. Bevil, chairman of the Committee on Safety, and Mrs. Fred L. Keeler, vice-president from Region IV. Here they are pausing in the conference exhibit area, before a display illustrating the Traffic Court Program of the American Bar Association. The parent-teacher "textbook" they hold is the Congress publication, "Signals for Safety."



► In the interest of protecting children and youth from avoidable physical hazards—a parent-teacher area that demands constantly increased attention and action—the National Congress held a regional safety conference in Chicago, December 2-3. The session was set up as a pilot project, in which central area congresses participated: Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

The chief concern of the conference was to show how local, state, and national parent-teacher committees can cooperate with each other and with other organizations to arouse public interest, educate children and adults, and secure better laws to prevent accidents.

Assisting throughout the conference were representatives of the Automotive Safety Foundation, National Safety Council, U.S. Public Health Service, National Education Association, Northwestern University, and American Bar Association.